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Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the Department of Energy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain.

1 My name is Vera Falk. I am here today speaking as a grandmother and a mother. I have a lot of feeling about taking the radioactive waste out to Nevada and putting it in the laps of the Native Americans. The Western Shoshone nation has never seceded their land at Yucca Mountain. We are disregarding their rights, their health and their environment.

2 I urge you to reconsider your proposal to send these incredibly dangerous materials away from reactor, out into the rush hour traffic of major cities along the interstate highways. Radioactive waste would be shipped through more than 100 cities with populations of over 100,000 including St. Louis City and County. Sending them by rail would also involve risks. We have all read news paper accounts of firey train wrecks, tractor trailer collisions, increasing road rage, and acts of terrorism such as the bombings in Oklahoma City and the World Trade Center in New York. Cities, towns and rural communities along every proposed route would have to equip and train local emergency response teams, hospital staff, police and school officials to deal with a major nuclear catastrophe.

4 At the end of the line, at the proposed repository in Nevada, there are questions about the suitability of Yucca Mountain as a disposal site. There have been many earthquakes in the region, and there is concern about potential contamination of the groundwater.

5 This country has avoided confronting the problems caused by our nuclear power and nuclear weapons technologies for more than 50 years. The first positive step would be to stop producing more radioactive waste. Thank you.

Vera Falk

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